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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kazuhiro ICHIMOTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3748

Application No.: 10/555,409

Examiner: D. TRAN

Filed: November 3, 2005

Docket No.: 125881

For: DEVICE FOR RESTRAINING THE DETERIORATION OF A CATALYTIC
APPARATUS OF AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

APPLICANTS' SEPARATE RECORD OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the June 28, 2007 personal interview, Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is provided in the following remarks. Applicants also appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Tran in the June 28, 2007 personal interview.

During the personal interview, Applicants' representatives traversed the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 10-280990 to Kawai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,513 to Nakagawa et al. (hereinafter Nakagawa). The points presented parallel the arguments asserted in the June 5, 2007 Amendment.

As discussed during the personal interview, both Kawai and Nakagawa, alone or in a permissible combination, fail to disclose a device wherein, when the temperature of a catalytic apparatus arranged in an engine exhaust system is higher than a predetermined

temperature in a vehicle deceleration, a first motor generator connected with the vehicle drive shaft is operated as a generator that charges an electrical accumulator, as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, for at least these reasons and those asserted in the June 5, 2007 Amendment, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Furthermore, it is respectfully that the rejection of claims 4, 5 and 9 also be withdrawn, at least in view of the patentability of independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:LXF/tjx

Date: July 11, 2007

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